



*Empowering learners to embrace and influence the future with courage and compassion.*

March 19, 2020

Dear Clinton Public School Families,

The experiences of the past week have created a new reality for meeting our mission as educators. On Tuesday, March 16th, the Commissioner of the State Department of Education issued directives to all public schools that we should be working to provide distance learning experiences to our students.

As a result, there are many changes to how the district, our schools, and our staff will be operating.

**During our closing, the following plans will be implemented:**

**Interim Educational Opportunities:** We have developed a plan that will utilize online resources to deliver learning experiences to our students in Pre K-12. This plan will utilize a combination of Google Classroom, video conferencing, instructional websites, and other resources. Regular communication with students and families will be maintained via email, phone calls, and teleconferencing as needed. While the plan is rapidly being put into place, and some aspects are still in development, the model will include students completing some work independently, as well as opportunities for interaction with teachers. *You will receive more detailed information about the plan and expectations for your child by Monday, March 23, 2020 and we will launch the program on Wednesday, March 25, 2020.*

**Support Services for Students:** We will be establishing our plans and methods for providing services to eligible students, as is possible, through a remote/online format. As we begin our implementation, we will be communicating directly to families and students that were receiving instructional or other support (SRBI/504). Parents of students with IEPs will be sent more information from the Special Services Director about the development and progress of plans related to providing services. That letter is attached to this message.

**Technology Access & Devices:** Students in grades 5-12 will utilize district-issued Chromebooks for their distance learning. Students in grades PK-4 have been surveyed in order to determine access to technology for delivery of learning. We are working to ensure that we provide support to families to ensure access to the distance learning components for all of our students. We will be establishing a method for students and families to communicate and resolve technology issues and concerns, and will share details of that process next week.



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**School Calendar:** The requirement to make up school days and to be in session through June 30, 2020 has been lifted by the Governor and the Commissioner of Education. We were directed that school districts may end the school year at their regularly scheduled end date. Therefore, the published 2019-2020 school calendar has not been altered, and as of today, April Vacation, graduation, and the last day of school remain as planned. You can view a copy of the school calendar [here](#).

**Access to Buildings:** Schools will be opened on Saturday at specific times for students/parents to retrieve belongings or items that they may have left behind and will need in the next few weeks. This includes musical instruments, books and notebooks, or personal items that students will need. In order to maintain the appropriate social distancing protocols, and follow state guidelines, we will need to limit the number of people in the building areas at any one time, but will work to facilitate the access and reduce any potential wait times. Building principals will use School Messenger to share the schedule with families on Friday, March 20, 2020.

**Meal Plan Service:** We will continue our meal service program as shared earlier in the week. Meals will be provided to all students enrolled in our schools through our grab and go process. For more information about this program, click [here](#).

While this is a difficult time and we are attempting to educate in a whole new way, I see this as a unique opportunity for all of us to grow, learn new skills, maintain consistency and connection, and support the students in Clinton in this very challenging time period. Please know that we are working diligently to prepare for this unplanned experience of full on-line distance learning, and we will continue to do so as we begin our efforts next week.

We have created a [location](#) on our district website to house information, important links, and COVID-19-related messaging. You will soon begin to receive communications from your school principals, teachers, and me so please monitor your email for this information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Maryann O'Donnell'.

Maryann O'Donnell